

***Reasons for Allowance***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a monoclonal antibody for use in detection and identification of fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells, the monoclonal antibody 1) having specific reactivity to a cell surface antigen present only on fetal red blood cells (fetal RBCs) and their nucleated precursor cells (fetal nRBCs) identified and described in Applicant's disclosure as MAb 4B8 and MAb 4B9; 2) the cell surface antigen that the monoclonal antibodies bind being distinct from CD71 cell surface antigen or transferrin receptor which is expressed in fetal RBCs and fetal nRBCs; and 3) the cell surface antigen being absent in other fetal non-erythroid blood cells and adult erythroid and non-erythroid blood cells.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GAIENE R. GABEL whose telephone number is (571)272-0820. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark L. Shibuya can be reached on (571) 272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GAILENE R. GABEL/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641

September 8, 2010